

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
12 February 2004 (12.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/013733 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/60**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/024252

(22) International Filing Date: 4 August 2003 (04.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/400,603 2 August 2002 (02.08.2002) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **LIMOQ, INC.** [US/US]; 317 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MASHINSKY, Alex** [US/US]; 317 Madison Avenue, Suite 210, New York, NY 10017 (US).

(74) Agent: **HANCHUK, Walter, G.**; Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P., 345 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10154 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

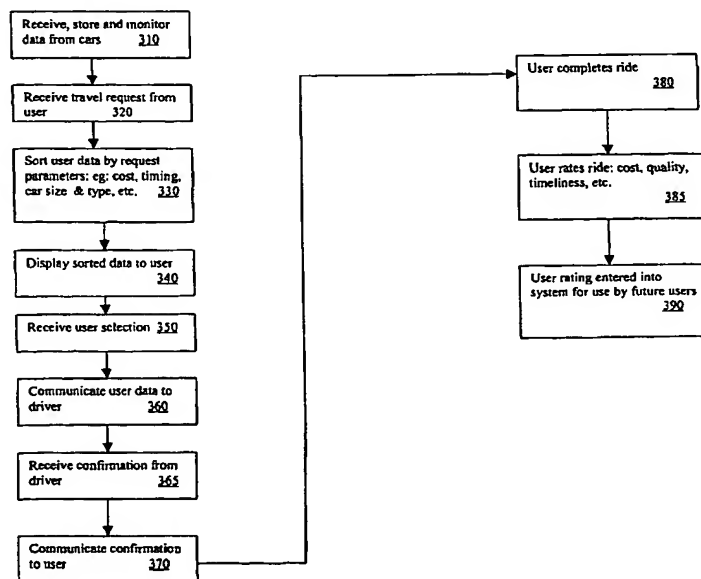
Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
29 April 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD, SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



(57) Abstract: A system and method for providing taxi patrons with a taxi-reservation system (Fig. 3) which facilitates better taxi service, better time utilization and financial rewards for taxi drivers who provide better service, and more efficient pricing for buyers. The taxi-reservation system allows patrons to rate the taxi service (390) they receive as well as pre-select taxi drivers from a pool of available taxi drivers. The system further enables taxi drivers to participate in a pricing scheme where customers can bid on proposed fares for their trips, and drivers, dispatchers or companies can bid on customers.

WO 2004/013733 A3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/24252

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60  
US CL : 705/5,6,7,9,28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 705/5,6,7,9,28

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
East

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,945,919 A (TRASK) 31 August 1999 (31.08.1999), abstract, column 1-9, Figs. 1-8.	1-29,32-76, 80-94
X	US 5,973,619 A (PAREDES) 26 October 1999 (26.10.1999), abstract, col. 1-6..	1-29, 33-76, 80-94
X	US 5,168,451 A (BOLGER) 1 December 1992 (01.12.1992), abstract, Figs. 1-8, col. 1-12.	1-29, 33-76, 80-94
Y	US 5,897,620 A (WALKER et al) 27 April 1999 (27.04.1999), abstract, column 2-17.	1-94
Y	US 5,797,127 A (WALKER et al) 18 August 1998 (18.08.1998), abstract, columns 2-9.	1-94
X,P	US 2003/0065556 A1 (TAKANASHI et al) 3 April 2003 (03.04.2003), abstract, Figs. 1-11, pages 1-5.	1-94
X,P	US 2003/0009360 A1 (CHAUDHARY et al) 9 January 2003 (09.01.2003), abstract, Figs. 1-7, pages 1-3.	1-94
X,P	US 2003/0055689 A1 (BLOCK et al) 20 March 2003 (20.03.2003), abstract, Figs. 1-36, pages 1-28.	1-94
X,P	US 6,430,496 B1 (SMITH et al) 6 August 2002 (06.08.2002), abstract, Figs. 1-6B, columns 1-26.	1-94

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date  
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

04 December 2003 (04.12.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 JAN 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

John Weiss

Telephone No. 703-308-1113

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/24252

## C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/0072938 A1 (BLACK et al) 13 June 2002 (13.06.2002), abstract, Figs 1-23, pages 1-6	1-94
Y	US 5,948,040 A (DeLORME et al) 7 September 1999 (07.09.1999), columns 1-78.	1-94